

55. (Amended) A composition comprising water soluble peptides, wherein said peptides are obtained by:

oxidizing human or animal hair, human or animal nails, fur, hooves, or feathers, in an

aqueous oxidizing solution;

filtering said aqueous oxidizing solution to obtain a water soluble portion;

substantially neutralizing said water soluble portion; and

adding a water-miscible organic solvent to said water soluble portion, such that a

precipitate is formed;

wherein said precipitate comprises water soluble peptides;

and further wherein at least about 90% of said water soluble peptides are between about 300 and

about 1300 daltons in molecular weight.

Please cancel claim 66 without prejudice or disclaimer.

#### **REMARKS**

##### **I. Status of the Claims**

Claim 55 is amended. Claim 66 is canceled without prejudice or disclaimer. Claims 55-65 and 67-96 are currently in the case. Claim 55 has been amended to include the limitations of canceled claim 66.

##### **II. Claim rejections under 35 U.S.C. §103**

The process steps in the instant claims are different than those in the cited references, and the products are distinguished at least by relative molecular weights.